



## APPLES ON THE FARM AND IN THE MARKETS

(Written Specially for The Bulletin.)

The other day I saw in my New York paper, in the advertisement of a big department store, the following items announced in big type as "exceptional bargains":—  
"Greening apples: good cookers, 5-cent basket, 33 cents."  
"New York Pippins, 5-cent basket, 35 cents."  
There at the rate of \$2.51 a barrel for cooking apples, and \$3.08 a barrel for Pippins.

The same paper another day reported that on the last date for which ship manifests of cargoes to Europe were available the shipments of apples out of New York "reached 13,464 barrels, worth \$45,847."  
There at the rate of over \$3.40 a barrel.

Last week a buyer for the New York market was at my place. He informed me that all he could get for good apples at wholesale in the New York market was \$1.25 a barrel, out of which he had to pay for the barrel and pay the freight.

Next day another buyer happened along. He looked at my small lot and finally as a great inducement to me to sell them offered me a dollar a barrel for my Northern Pippins and 75 cents a barrel for my Greenings!

I didn't sell them. Perhaps I never shall. But if apples are worth from \$3.40 to \$3.40 a barrel to consumers at bargain department store sales in New York city, and it costs less than thirty cents a barrel to get them from here, they're either worth more than 75 cents a barrel to me, or else they're worth nothing!

Perhaps a month ago a lady in a certain Connecticut city, a wild horse about drag its real name from me, wrote that she was having to pay 35 cents a peck for common cooking apples. Would I send her a barrel at a dollar, if she'd pay the freight?

I would and I did. Just then the weather happened to be warm enough to make freight reasonably safe from freezing. Of course, it can't be done, now that winter has really set in with freezing temperatures.

These little occurrences are simply chance illustrations of the unfortunate truth that the farm producer seldom gets one-half what his crops are worth, while the city consumer usually pays about what the same crops are worth.

But, in the light of the prices which I have quoted, will you tell me why in the name of common decency any consumer should abuse the farmer for the high cost in town of the farmer's goods?

When decade after decade's statistics have shown that, of every dollar which the average consumer pays for farm produce, less than forty cents goes to pay for the produce, and the other sixty cents to swell the profits of toll-takers along the way, why should any consumer slang-whang the man who gets the forty cents and gives all the goods for it, and not the fellows who grab the sixty cents?

If they don't care enough about it to do that, they certainly ought not to

for nothing except just passing them along?

When the city consumer pays his or her dollar, less than forty cents of it, as a rule, goes to the farmer. Is that consumer wants to save the other sixty cents, or a considerable proportion of it, why on earth doesn't he or she buy direct from the farmer and save money and indignation?

Is the farmer to blame because the consumer won't do it? Is it the farmer's part to go all the way in an attempt to save the consumer money? Isn't it common fairness to the one who pays the bills to come at least half-way to meet the producer, and to start first, too?

Why doesn't he? Why won't he? The first reason is that he, or she, or "he," is quite as likely to be "she" as "he,"—would rather pay money to be waited on than save money by waiting on himself. That is, in most cases.

The old American virtues of independence and self-helpfulness are, apparently, disappearing in our city populations. The uncouth, who can afford to pay all sorts of helpers for waiting on them. They have valets and maids to dress them, and cooks to prepare their feasts, and waiters to bring in and pass the food. Sometimes I wonder how long it will be before they have paid fenders to do the knife-and-fork for them and lift the pre-digested fodder into their mouths.

Thereupon those who are not rich assume that this sort of flabby helplessness is highly desirable and ape it as far as they can. They, perhaps, can't afford valets and maids, but, at least, they can make the butcher and baker and grocer take their orders by telephone and deliver them by special messenger. And so on and so on.

Now, at the bottom of my heart I don't blame the butcher and the baker and the grocer for making these folks pay for the work and expense they demand from him. He, really, isn't any more to be blamed for what the things cost than the farmer.

The one to be blamed and the only one, as things now stand, is the grouchy, grumpy, growling, kicking consumer himself. He has the remedy right in his own hands, whenever he cares enough about it to use it.

Of course, this doesn't mean that you, dear city brother or sister, can at once and by just saying the word, assert your individual and separate independence of all middlemen. Some sort of organization and combination and co-operation is essential.

But to say that men who can and do organize themselves into parties for political purposes, and into churches for religious ends, and into unions for shop-protection, and into clubs for social pleasure, and into orders of other orders for scores of other purposes,—to say that men who can do this can't also organize to save themselves half their cost of living is to say stuff and nonsense.

If they don't it is simply because they don't care enough about it to take the trouble.

If they don't care enough about it to do that, they certainly ought not to

keep the air blue with their unjust denunciations of others who have the right to fair prices for their goods and fair pay for their services, i. e. farmers and retail dealers.

I am getting awful tired of this constant drive from those who themselves make and keep the cost of living high about their hardships and the producers' "greediness." Practically the whole thing is in the consumer's own hands. They can save themselves money, or they can save themselves trouble, whichever they prefer. They can do both at the same time, for the same reason that they can't eat their cake and keep it, too.

If they want to buy produce at producers' prices, there are plenty of farmers' and farmers' organizations to meet them, and they can do both at the same time, for the same reason that they can't eat their cake and keep it, too.

If they prefer to shrink trouble and work and planning, certainly it is their royal American prerogative to do so. It is also their privilege to pay the bills they have created without grumbling; to take their medicine and look painful.

Said a well-informed New York business man, the other day: "If the United States had a policy of buying only goods made in America, instead of paying the price of exclusiveness supposed to go with foreign

labels, for the period of a year every workman in the country would be busy and half a billion dollars that annually go to foreign manufacturers and laborers would keep every wheel of industry at home moving. He doesn't have confidence in this to the women of America." There are men who think they must smoke "Havana" cigars,—made in Hoboken, because they are better than domestic—who order "imported" champagne,—made in New York state and shipped over to France to have a foreign label put on so as to call for the payment of a duty: who must have their suits cut from imported woolens, or better, only a good deal of those made at home. This, again, is their right, if they can afford to pay good money for the sale of whining and fads. But that's no reason why those of us who can't easily afford to waste money should follow their carriages, and then whimper over the cost.

Anyway, there's no valid reason or excuse for the producing farmer having his hair pulled and his back doled by the United States government because of the charges which the consumers themselves have compelled carriers and exporters and sellers and deliverers to add to the cost of the farmer's goods.

It's high time that people who itch should scratch their own backs, and not try to scarify innocent consumers!

THE FARMER.

## NEW LONDON'S SOCIAL FIREMAN

Schedule of Entertainments to be Arranged Throughout the Winter—Women Loiterers and Back Rooms—Business Men's Association to Change Name and Seek Meeting Place in Municipal Building.

The commendable plan of the Catholic societies of New London to entertain each other at stated intervals is becoming contagious, and in the expectation of creating a more friendly feeling, the eight volunteer fire companies are to something in the entertaining line, beginning early in the new year. A schedule has been arranged in which Wednesday evening is to be designated as Firemen's Night, for then four of the companies have visited every other company. Just to make the visits interesting there will be competitive games of cards and pool, in addition to the refreshments. This project was launched at a meeting of the officers of the fire companies, and with approval and has since been sanctioned by vote of the companies.

There was more or less friendly visitations between members of the companies last winter, but now every company in the department will participate in the same social plan. It is believed that by this plan the little petty jealousies will be ironed out and that the members will work in union for the good of the whole department and thereby the general efficiency increased. The whole citizenship is liberal with the firemen, willing to furnish the best possible equipment, knowing that the return the best possible service will be rendered. But with improvement in the social side of the firemen as a whole, there will probably be a less team work in fire service, less individual work which will probably mean more effective service, if that be possible.

Orders have been promulgated that the laws regarding women loitering in public places, in side rooms, and the growing evil of street walking, must be stopped in New London, and the law will be enforced to the letter by the police, unless modified by the parties higher up, the parties who directed the assistance. The order, the policemen of New London are ever ready to do their full duty, without fear or favor, provided their acts are backed by those higher up and the court of prosecution. Therefore the laws referred to will not be violated in the city day or night, provided the order holds good, or, as one of our full officers put it: "We will do our full duty, and put an end to the violation of these laws, or any other for that matter, if the authorities are in earnest and don't make fish of one offender and flesh of another. All offenders should be treated alike and then a police officer would know just where he was at. I do hope that orders will come to arrest all violators of any section of the liquor law, and not confine the arrest and prosecution to specified sections. To enforce these laws would keep us fellows busy, but we would not mind that. We would be better to know that we are performing what we know to be our duty, and without any fear of getting a call down, direct or indirect, by someone in authority in the police department, but not a member thereof. If Captain Haven were permitted to exercise his supposed prerogatives, the whole police would be better satisfied with the work of the police and the officers would have more confidence in the performance of duty. It is this confounded interference of the police committee and the constant interference of just a few on the outside, that leads the people to believe that the best possible police service is not rendered. I'll tell you now that the members of the police force, from captain to station-house keeper, are

## Suggestions for Xmas Shoppers In the Optical Line

Opera Glasses, Field and Bird Glasses, Telescopes, Magnifiers in many styles. Gold and silver Lorgnettes.  
Eye Glass Reels and Pencil Holders in gold, silver and enamel finish, ranging from 50c to \$3.50, make a beautiful and lasting gift; save glasses from being broken or mislaid. Always ready for use.  
Also Eye Glass Chains, gold and silver.  
Thermometers, Compasses. All kinds of Fancy Spectacles and Eye Glass Cases. All these are nice gifts.  
Reading Glasses, plain and fancy pearl handles, from 50c to \$5.00. All sizes. Also Radiolite Picture Machines.  
Auto Glasses, all styles, metal and shell frames. Some for children.  
Don't forget a nice pair of Gold or Shell Glasses will make the world look brighter to the wearer. We fit the eyes, make the glasses, grind them in our own shop, and guarantee satisfaction.

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## John & Geo. H. Bliss DIAMONDS

With our stock of Diamonds larger than ever and at the lowest prices that can be found on the market, we are prepared to supply every requirement.

Come and see our Diamond Mounted Rings, Scarf Pins, Pendants, Brooches, Bar Pins and Bracelets.  
Platinum and Gold Mountings in artistic designs and exquisite workmanship.

EVERY ARTICLE GUARANTEED

JOHN & GEO. H. BLISS

purpose, to locate in the city building. It would establish a precedent that might cause embarrassment, to put it mildly, in the sweet by-and-by. There are several organizations whose purposes would be content to the advancement of the city of New London, and if they were furnished rooms in the new building it would mean enlargement of the new and beautiful structure. Perhaps the members of the New London Chamber of Commerce, to be the new and beautiful structure. Perhaps the members of the New London Chamber of Commerce, to be the new and beautiful structure. Perhaps the members of the New London Chamber of Commerce, to be the new and beautiful structure.

## Washington County, R. I. HOPKINTON

Successful Minstrel Entertainment—Ashaway Postmistress Gets Five Street Lights.

The Neighborhood social was held at the home of Mrs. John S. Cole, Wednesday evening.  
Miss Ruth M. Johnston, of Easton, Mass., has been visiting friends in town for a few days.  
Miss Esie I. Kenyon of Westerly spent Sunday with her mother, Mrs. Harriet C. Kenyon.

A fine minstrel entertainment by local amateurs was given in Barber's hall, Ashaway, for the benefit of the choir of the First Hopkinton Seventh Day Baptist church. The hall was crowded with a highly pleased audience. By request the entertainment was repeated Tuesday evening, with some new features, to another large audience.

Five Street Lights.  
Through the efforts of Mrs. Sarah F. B. Hood, postmistress at Ashaway, the town of Hopkinton has secured five electric street lights to be located on High and West streets some time ago and the lights were turned on Friday evening for the first time. They are much appreciated.

## USQUEPAUGH

Mrs. Mary McCann was in Providence Wednesday.  
Mrs. Ida M. Kenyon spent Wednesday at Pawtucket.

Mrs. George Westlake spent over Sunday at Dr. Kenyon's.  
There is a new housekeeper at J. Webster's.  
Eugene Handle of Saunderson was a caller here Sunday.  
Mrs. Andover Peck was a business caller in Providence Wednesday.  
Charles Boss of Exeter was here Friday.

Cure for Polio III.  
Some of the lame ducks appear to think that if they could just get a public building for their district at this session they would probably recover from their lameness in two years.—Indianapolis News.

Milwaukee Will Laugh.  
A Cincinnati who drank 100 glasses of beer a day for a long time has lost his memory. How Milwaukee will laugh at this display of effeminacy.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

When the straw hat first appeared in 1784 it was worn exclusively by women.

## USEFUL XMAS PRESENTS TOOLS of all kinds QUALITY THE BEST, PRICES THE LOWEST

CUTLERY  
Carving Sets, Keen-Kutter  
Shears and Scissors.....25c, \$1.00  
Pocket Knives.....25c, \$2.50  
Razors.....\$1.00, \$3.00  
Safety Razors, Keen-Kutter, Jr. (nothing better)....\$1.00

SKATES  
Lowest prices in years—never as low again  
FLASH LIGHTS—Our prices the lowest  
FOOD CHOPPERS—Keen-Kutter, best made  
ALUMINUM WARE  
ELECTRIC FLATS worth \$3.50 for \$3.00

## The Household

Bulletin Building, 74 Franklin Street

**Today AUDITORIUM** Shows 2.30, 7, 8.45  
Ma. 10c Eve. 10c and 20c  
**REES & HINSMAN, Comedy Acrobats**  
TILL'S MARIONETTES | RODDY and LEROY  
Classy Entertainers.  
ANIMATED WEEKLY | THE BARBER SHOP FEUD  
THE WITCH GIRL.....2-Real Drama with Mary Fuller  
COMING MONDAY—BIG ACTS—3 and 1st EPISODE OF  
**TERENCE O'ROURKE** GENTLEMAN ADVENTURER  
Another Serial Picture—High Society Drama with J. Warren Kerrigan  
Shown Every Other Week. By Louis J. Vance, Author of 'Troy O'Harts'

**SAFETY FIRST DAVIS THEATRE** THE BIG LAUGHING SHOW  
THAT FUNNY FELLOW CHARLIE CHAPLIN  
IN THE 2-REEL KEYSTONE COMEDY, "HIS TRYSTING PLACES"  
A Riot of Laughter and Fun—Bring the Children to See Him  
MARCUS and CLEMENCE | THERSE ROSE SMITH and HARVEY  
Classy Singing Duo | Violinist and Piano Act  
4 REELS MUTUAL MOVIES. Matinee 5c and 10c. Evening 10c, 15c, 20c  
COMING MONDAY 3 GREAT ACTS and Another Keystone Comedy with Charlie Chaplin

**COLONIAL THEATRE**  
ALICE JOYCE and TOM MOORE, Appearing in "Fate's Midnight Hour"  
"Her Mother Was a Lady," Lubin.....Two-Real Special Feature  
"Broncho Billy's Mission." Excellent Comedy  
Matinee 5c Evening 10c  
"THE GAMBLERS".....Five-Real Feature-de-Lux for Monday

tion from the Upper Noank school with her parents in Old Mystic.  
Mr. and Mrs. John Kitchenner have moved to Groton.  
Mrs. T. J. Sawyer and Mrs. R. F. Sawyer have been visiting in New London.  
Mrs. Anna Rogers and her niece, Miss Crane, of New York, have been visiting in New London.  
Off to Tampico.  
Charles Bentley, turret captain on the U. S. R. Rhode Island, eldest son of W. W. Bentley, will spend his Christmas in Mexican waters this year, as the ship is anchored seven miles off the coast of Tampico.  
Mr. and Mrs. John R. Parkhurst of Stafford Springs were recent guests of relatives here.  
Tramps are becoming numerous in the village.  
Mrs. Grace K. Peckham has sold her black driving horse to Woodward Wheeler.  
Several of the Yantic employees of the Palmer Bros. quilt mill of Fitchville are having a vacation until New Year's, on account of the mill closing in some departments.

**POQUONNOC**  
The road at Groton Long Point over which the southeasterly winds washed the high tides of the last storm in a vicious manner, while losing some of the loose sand and gravel was not made impassable as was expected. Schools closed Friday for two weeks' vacation. The children under the direction of the teachers, Miss Payne and Miss Wells, gave a preliminary program of recitations and songs.  
An attractive programme has been arranged for the Christmas concert at the Baptist church to be held Sunday evening.  
The entertainment for Christmas which the Methodist Episcopal church will give is to be held the 30th.  
Mrs. C. I. Fitch entertained the Missionary and Aid society at her home Friday afternoon.  
Mrs. Charles Libby opened her home to the young women of the Methodist church Friday evening and the Christmas sale was held successfully.  
The Campfire Girls will meet this evening at the home of Mrs. Minnie T. Vallette.  
Friday night the Boy Scouts held a pleasant meeting, followed by drilling.  
Franklin Rathbun, Nelson Brown, Angus McQuarrie and Albert Patterson have arrived from Suffolk for the vacation.  
Adelaide Libby of Smith college is spending her vacation home.  
Miss Hilda Wilbur and Miss Helen Main have arrived from their school in Northampton for two weeks.  
Miss Esther Carroll of Monson will spend the vacation at her home here.  
Miss Laura Durfee of Medford, Mass., is expected at her home here for Christmas.  
Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Carson are entertaining their daughter, Mrs. Walter Lewis, of Uxbridge, Mass.  
Charles T. Potter of Norwich has been visiting here.  
William Patterson and Hiram Latham, who are employed in East Hampton, will be home for Christmas.  
Miss Helen Hall will spend her vacation here.

**REUTER'S** Leading Florist  
**XMAS SPECIALS FOR TODAY**  
NEW EFFECTS FOR CEMETERY DECORATION  
Store Open Sunday, 9 A. M. to 1 P. M.  
WREATHS and SPRAYS in large variety  
Prices \$1.00 upwards  
See them before purchasing elsewhere  
Our bunches RED IMMORTELLES and GREENS make an ideal bouquet, 50c  
RUSCUS and RED FRIEZE, 25c a bunch  
Nothing better for decorating  
These articles can be purchased today and we guarantee them to be in perfect condition over Xmas  
Avoid the big rush of next week  
Look for our Special Xmas Announcement Tuesday  
140 Main Street Phone 1184

**EVERYTHING ELECTRICAL**  
**The Norwich Electric Co.**  
100 FRANKLIN STREET  
What is the New EL-PERCO?  
IT IS AN ELECTRIC COFFEE POT OF PLEASING DESIGN. SEAMS AND SPOUT SOLDERLESS. NO VALVES.  
SAVES CURRENT AND COFFEE  
**It's Easy**  
TO USE—TO CLEAN—TO LIKE—TO BUY AND IS GUARANTEED.  
**Price \$5.00**

**CHRISTMAS GIFTS**  
Furniture and Housefurnishings

are the most desirable, because the articles are always before the recipient as pleasant reminders of the giver. We are showing the latest and most attractive designs in the following lines and invite you to inspect the stock.

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| Parlor Tables,<br>Parlor Suits,<br>Parlor Rugs,<br>Fancy Rockers,<br>Music Cabinets,<br>Morris Chairs,<br>Tabourettes,<br>Medicine Cabinets,<br>Pictures,<br>Book Cases,<br>Mirrors,<br>Dressing Tables,<br>Rocking Horses, | Doll Carriages,<br>Hall Seats,<br>Hall Trees,<br>Couches,<br>Dining Tables,<br>China Closets,<br><b>CARPETS</b><br>High Chairs,<br>Writing Desks,<br>Bedroom Sets,<br>Kitchen Ranges,<br>Iron Beds, Etc., Etc. |
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62-66 Main Street. Store Open Evenings